



**SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION**  
Minutes  
Monthly Meeting  
Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>  
Panel Room, King Street Station

**Commissioners present:** Priya Frank, Cassie Chinn, Juan Alonso-Rodriguez, Steve Galarto, Mari Horita, Jonathan Cunningham, Nilofer Rajpurkar, Sharon Williams, Sarah Wilke, Jescelle Major

**Staff in attendance:** Calandra Childers, Randy Engstrom, Rick Reyes

**Guests:**

**Call to Order & Introduction (4:08, Recognition of Indigenous Land, Racial Equity)**

Send out parking paperwork

**Approval of Minutes:** Cassie moves to approve the December SAC Minutes, Jonathan seconds the motion. The minutes are approved.

**Public Comment:**

**Commissioner's Corner**

**Briefing:** Sharon Nyree-Williams

Priya explains Commissioner's Corner. Sharon kicks off the first Commissioner's Corner with a spoken work piece. Sharon is currently working on / is:

- The Executive Director for the Central District Forum for Arts and Ideas
  - o The CD Forum has just celebrated it's 20<sup>th</sup> year as an organization
  - o This year's focus is on how to help develop artists of color
  - o Funding is heavily related to their association with the LANE program and other local funders but continue to work on local support to help build their donor base
- A storyteller:
  - o Currently working on a new album (which will be her third) recorded at London Bridge (London Bridge has discounted rates for local artists)
  - o Just released a book called *Dare to Claim the Sky* in line with a show she recently did
  - o All of her work is related to social issues
- A documentary and T-Shirt line based on all the pieces she's done

Sharon notes that if anyone knows about creating a clothing line or pieces of clothing, that would be helpful to connect.



## Committee Overviews + Updates

### **Briefing:** Chairs of Committees

- Facilities and Equitable Development (FED) Overview
  - o Operates like a think tank on issues related to Cultural Space and trying to bring Racial Equity to the center
  - o Recent Works: King Street Station, Cultural Facilities Grant Program Revamp, BASE Program, Cultural Spaces PDA, Safety Boxes, Cultural Districts, Tiny Cultural Spaces, and the Racial Equity Toolkits related to some of these works
  - o In the recent future, the FED will focus on the Square Feet Seattle Event which has been a big pusher of progressive work around the idea of Cultural Space
  
- Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) Overview
  - o The PAAC advises city officials on the 1% for art program by:
    - Reviewing and improving calls for artists and the selection of artists
    - Advising artists throughout the process to help the work be as impactful as possible
    - Making sure projects are being spread equitably
  - o Money advised comes from City Light, Public Utilities, and SDOT to name a few. The 1% for Art Program is focused around any capital project and the requirement to dedicate 1% of funds to art projects (which may or may not be related)
  - o While they're mostly focusing on visual arts, Steve and Juan have been looking at how to expand the idea of what public art is and isn't
  - o Questions:
    - Do you handle murals? There were questions around how to get murals approved. Juan responds only if it's tax-payer funded. Although, some private corporations will bring pieces to get endorsements.
    - ***Membership and joining: The chairs typically have been the ones to add / remove members and it's been a pretty easy process. Examples of volunteers who turned into members are Chieko and Cassie***
  
- Cultural Investment Committee (CIC) Overview
  - o The CIC takes a holistic approach to look at how grants and funding are done through a centered racial equity lens and launched during the middle of last year.
  - o This committee is a little more staff heavy
  - o The CIC Looks at
    - Priorities: Looking at where the dollars go, festivals
    - Creating a shared mission statement with the office to inform the work that Cultural Investments and the Committee does (three buckets: data, resources, and panel process)
    - Currently looking at, hopefully, having more commission support
    - Looking at cultivating who is needed at the table alongside a focus to guide this work into 2019



- Opportunities to talk about larger strategy and philanthropy funding (Cultural Equity Fund)
  - How do we share our work and its distinct position to create more conversations and exchanges?
- Rick will send out important documents that look at the work

#### SAC Questions / Comments:

- What does cultural investments reference? How are checks going out of the door (org, artist, community group, individuals) how are we doing that and how are we evaluating (in the grant field).
  - o Which needs more oversight

#### Director's Update

##### **Briefing:** Randy

- Randy begins with an appreciate of the PAAC and all of the work that they've been doing to push the Public Art Program to be what it can be
- Randy also appreciates the FED and commends the amount that is generated from that committee. The FED, he continues, is an interesting roadmap to think about how to address future Issues (identifying need in community to finding ways for policy and government to address those needs)
- Randy states how overdue the CIC is and thanks Calandra and Dawn for heading it. He adds that it's wild that there's never been a grantmaking review committee.
- Celebrates Calandra for the stewardship of King Street Station which is finally seeing actualization
- Looking forward:
  - o The Creative Advantage was created the commission and the Arts Education Sub-Committee. He thinks the Creative Economy Conversations will reignite a place for the Arts Education to re-enter the Commission's conversations
  - o Langston was the biggest project the commission has ever tackled during Randy's time and now, in a similar effort, we are seeing King Street Station actualized by the Arts Commission and advisors.
  - o Looking forward to more intentional intersectionality between the staff and the commission as 2019 commences
  - o The Viaduct party which Jenny K. and Maija are currently helping to curate an array of 40-50 installations, experiences, artists, storytellers, and processions is happening on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February from 12:00 – 6:00
- Work Planning: Randy is currently Co-Chairing the good government Cabinet, and helping with the Future of Work, and Affordability and livability groups.

#### SAC Questions / Comments:

- What is the creative economy? Randy explains that it represents the part of the workforce and the part that is creative work (Nonprofit, for profit, etc.). Natural evolution out of creative advantage onlap onto creative careers.



## **Chair Report**

### **Briefing: Priya**

- Looking forward, Priya is excited about:
  - o Looking at if the money that's going out is being used effectively and for the right thing
  - o Examining if the resources that the office is providing are the resources that are needed for community
  - o Diving into retreat planning and also greater staff/commission connection
- Thinking of ourselves as advisors, thought partners, and advocates as a bridge to the community.
  - o Taking and creating relationships between city council and the Mayor's office
- How do we think about our resources not from a place of scarcity but from a place of what are our values and knowing what's working and how to do it better if it's not.
  - o Having King Street Station is an interesting way to think about this. How do we create a space for community to create connections between commissioners and community?
- Goals:
  - o Building relationships with mayor's office and council
  - o Meeting every year with city council members
  - o Partnering with staff to ensure that the arts office is fulfilling need
  - o Building programs and partnerships that address displacement, festivals and the creative economy

### **SAC Questions / Comments:**

- Is there anything that you're interested in seeing the commission tackle in 2019?
  - o Public Safety via the public gathering via arts events
- Do we have a firm date for the retreat?
  - o No

### **Homework: Attend one of these events**

Jan 31<sup>st</sup> Langston (5-7:30)

Viaduct Celebration (2/2)

Mari's Party

Opening of KSS (3/23)

Re:Definition (1/20)